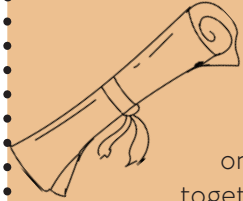




# 2nd Grade Short Story Builder

## Notes for Parents/Guardians/Teachers:



**Puppy Kisses Short Story Builder** is a literacy project that empowers students to write their own stories about school life. Stories are based on one or more of the six Puppy Kisses characters, who all attend school together. Each puppy has a distinct personality, allowing students to identify with them in a fun and imaginative way.

We believe writing should be both fun and educational, which is why our Short Story Builder teaches **Common Core Writing Standards** through lovable characters and inspirational school stories.

***This guide can be used as a space to explore who they are as writers in a step by step manner.***

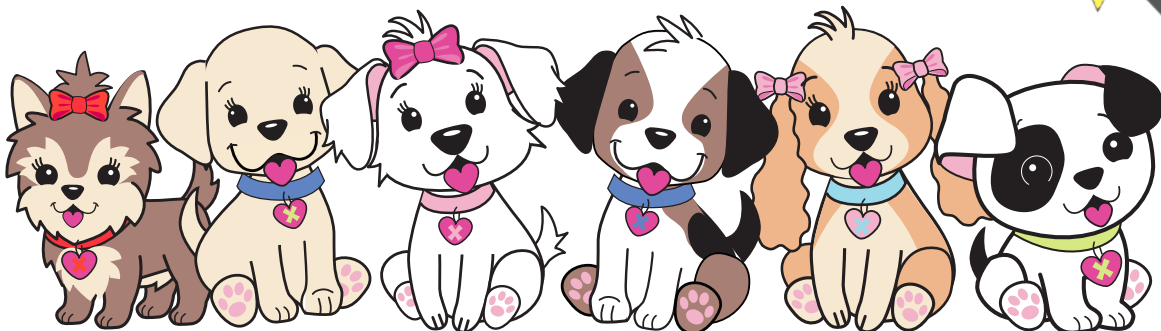
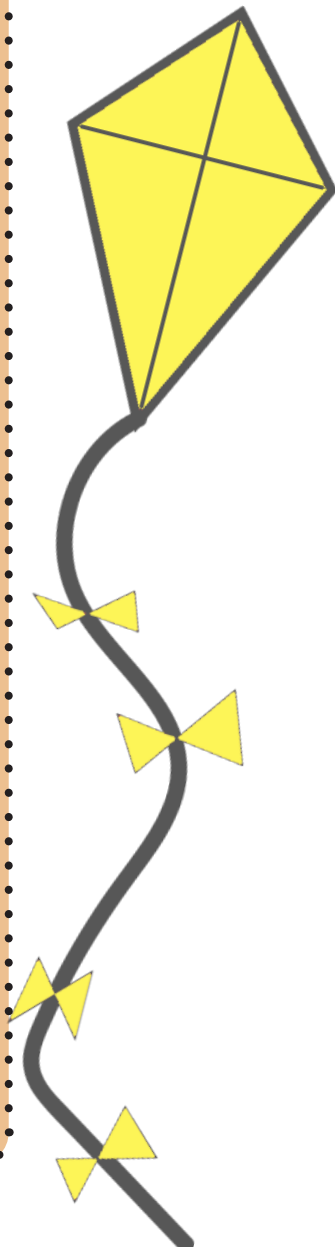
We also encourage students to publish their original stories to share with other children. This helps them gain confidence in their writing as well as feel rewarded for their time and effort

This short story-writing guide will focus on helping your child reach these goals. However, it is important to remember that every child learns at his or her own pace. If needed, you can repeat a guide more than once.

### **The Common Core Writing Standards for Second Graders:**

- a) The ability to write in detail about events or narratives with two or more sequences
- b) The usage of temporal words (such as first, second, finally)
- c) The usage of details regarding thoughts, actions, and feelings
- c) The ability to respond to questions about the story
- d) The ability to revise (add, remove, or change details)

You should work with your student on this story guide, reading each instruction aloud to them or explaining certain points if needed. Collaboration is a critical part of writing development.



## Note to Students:

Do you want to write your own story about the Puppy Kisses gang? You only need a few sentences to write a great story. Just follow these easy steps!

## It's Time to Build! Meet the Puppy Pack:

Cora is smart and caring. She loves planning fun things for her friends to do together. Making friends and going to school are her favorite things to do.



Cora



Scarlett

Scarlett has a big brain! She loves learning about science and dreams of becoming a doctor. Her favorite place is the library, and she's never too busy to help a friend with their homework.



Jacob

Curious by nature, Jacob has a great nose for investigating. He wants to be a detective when he grows up. For now, he loves photography and takes photos for the school newspaper.



Zach

Zach is a competitor. He loves playing all kinds of games. When he grows up, he wants to design video games. His friends know they can find him on the playground or in the computer lab. Zach can be a bit of a show-off, but he loves helping his friends.



Tess

Tess has a creative eye, and she wants to be a designer. In and out of school she can be found sketching; she loves to share her drawings with her friends.



Emily

Nothing makes shy Emily happier than to settle down with a book. Her love of reading has made her want to be either a writer or a professor — or both! She loves hanging out in the library with Scarlett or in the theater or music room.

## Step 1:

### Choose a main character.

You can choose between Cora, Scarlett, Jacob, Tess, Zach, or Emily.

You can learn more about the puppy pack here:  
[Puppy-Kisses.com/puppypack/](http://Puppy-Kisses.com/puppypack/)



Cora



Scarlett



Jacob



Zach



Tess



Emily

Who will YOUR  
story be about?

EXAMPLE:

Zach

Write your main character's name here

.....

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

.....

Step 2: Make a list of details about your character.  
We will refer to this later while writing the story.

EXAMPLE: Zach is hyper, fun, loves games, nice, and hangs out in the computer lab.

Make a list of **DETAILS** that describe your main character

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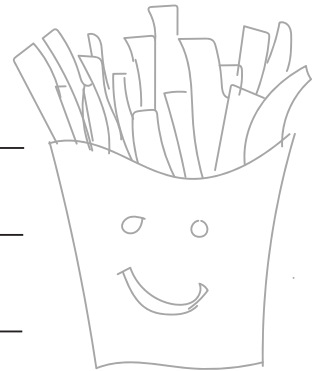
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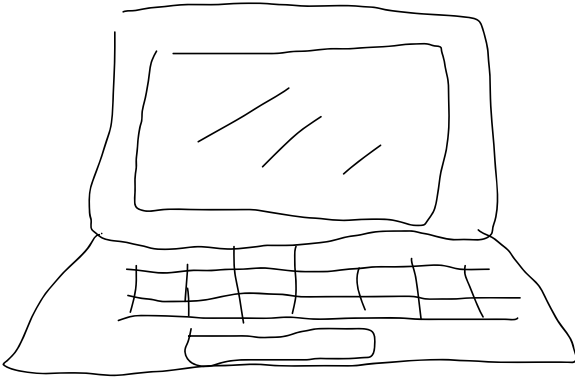


### Step 3: Tell us how your character starts the school day.

Make sure to tell us what time it is. Use **temporal words** and phrases like first, in the morning, before, or after. What is a temporal word? These are **words that tell us the order (or sequence) that events occur in.**

#### EXAMPLE:

Zach goes to computer class in the morning.

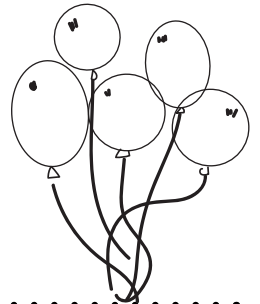


- What does your character do to start the school day?
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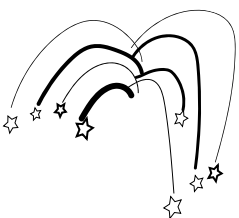


### Step 4:

Tell us how your character **feels** and **why** they feel that way.  
Use descriptive words like happy, sad, likes, loves, enjoys, fun, or excited.



EXAMPLE: Zach loves computer class because it is fun.



Make a list of words that describe how your character **FEELS** and **WHY**.

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Step 5:

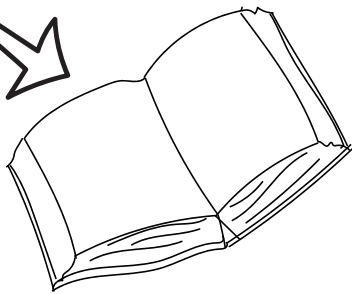
*Tell us what your character is learning about in school.*

Use **verbs** like write, read, create, make, think, add, subtract, solve, or answer.



**EXAMPLE:** He is learning how to make a video game.

*Tell what your character is learning in school.*



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Step 6:

Tell us about what your character does next at school.

Use **temporal words** like after, before, next, then, or later.

*Tell what the character does next at school.*

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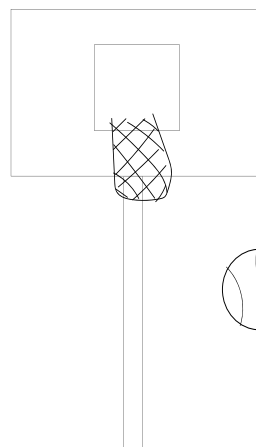
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**EXAMPLE:**

Next, Zach goes to gym class.





**Step 7:** *Tell us how the character FEELS!*  
Once more, tell us how the character **FEELS** about this.  
Use **descriptive words** like happy, excited, fun, like, or love.



**EXAMPLE:**

He likes gym.

*Tell how the character feels about what he/she does at school in step 6.*

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**Step 8:** Tell us what your character is doing in **greater detail**. Use verbs like read, write, learn, run, throw, skip, jump, swing, or dance.

**EXAMPLE:** Zach throws a ball very far.

*Take the idea in step 6 and 7 and expand on it in **DETAIL**.*

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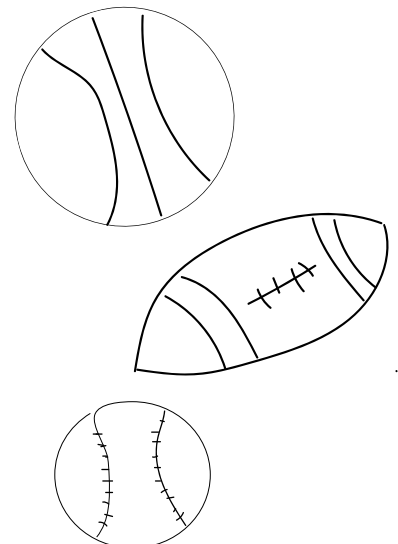
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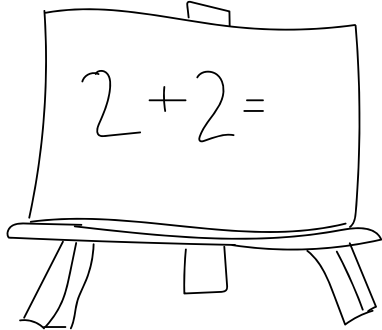


### Step 9:

Tell us one **last thing** your character does at school that day. Use **temporal words** like finally, lastly, or after.

#### EXAMPLE:

Finally, Zach goes to math class.



*Write the **LAST** thing that happens at school. Be sure to include **TEMPORAL** words!*

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### Step 10:

Tell us one last thing your character learns. Use **verbs** like read, write, add, subtract, draw, learn, solve, fix, or answer.

#### EXAMPLE:

He solves math problems.

*Write what the character **LEARNS**. Use **ACTIVE VERBS**!*

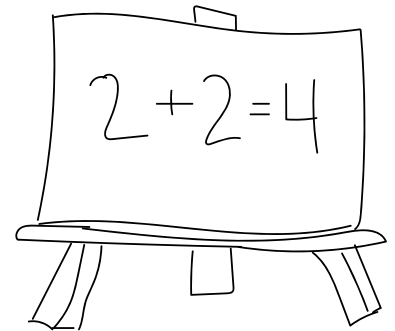
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### Step 11:

Tell us how your character feels about their school day as a whole. Use **descriptive words** like happy, fun, exciting, interesting, glad, or cheery.

#### EXAMPLE:

Zach is happy at school.



*Write how your character **FEELS** about their school day. Be **DESCRIPTIVE**!*

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Step 12:



*Now, write all your sentences together to form a complete story!*

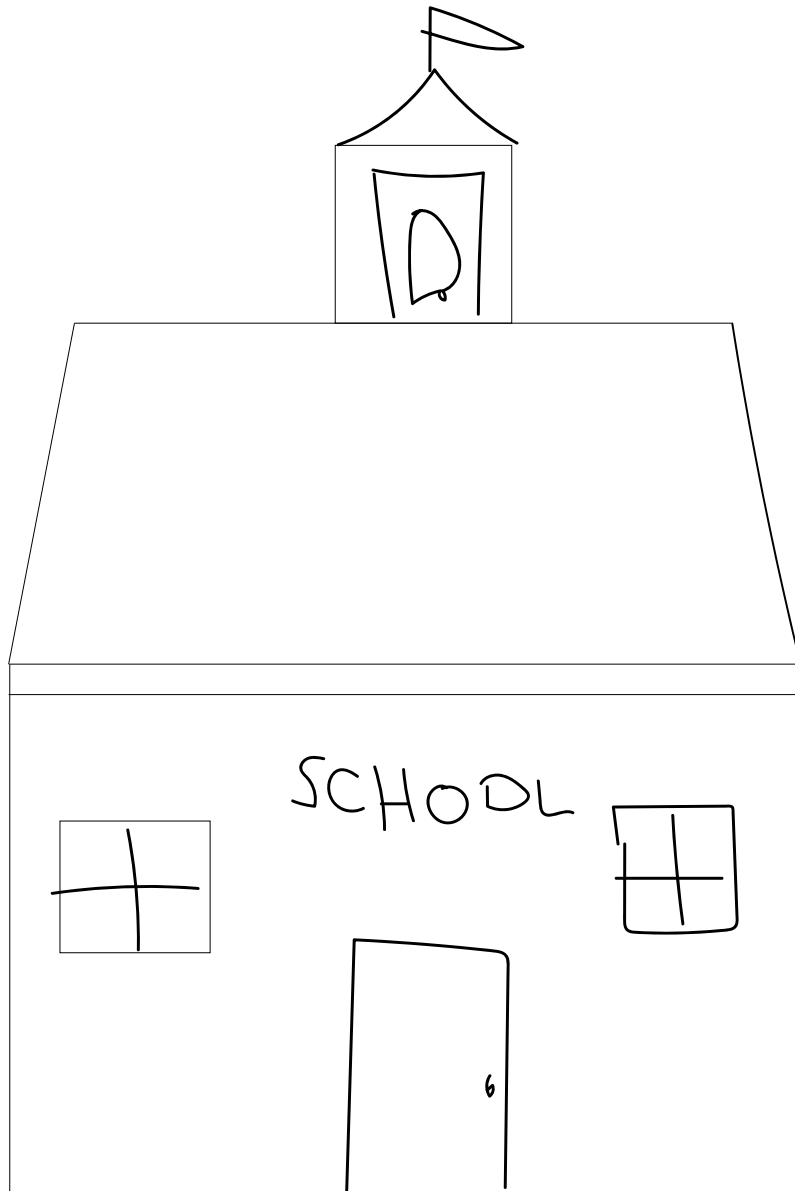
*Don't forget to come up with a title!*

(Tip: Write on every other line so that if you need to add something later, you'll have space to do so.)

EXAMPLE:

## Zach's School Day

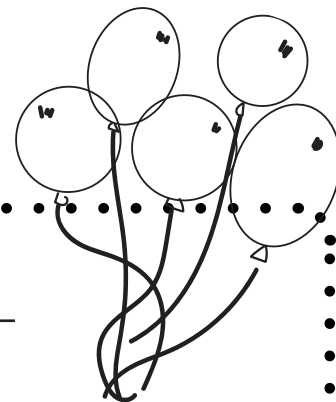
Zach goes to computer class in the morning. Zach loves computer class because it is fun. He is learning how to make a video game. Next, Zach goes to gym class. He likes gym. Zach throws a ball very far. Finally, Zach goes to math class. He solves math problems. Zach is happy at school! The End.





# YOUR STORY:

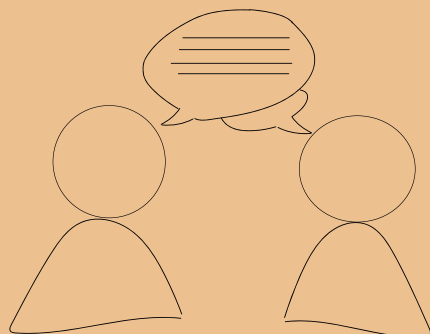
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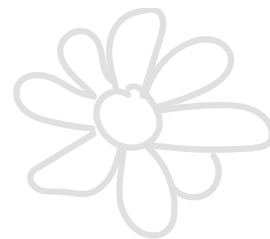
A large rectangular area for writing, enclosed by a dotted border. The area contains ten horizontal solid lines for text entry.

## Conversation Corner

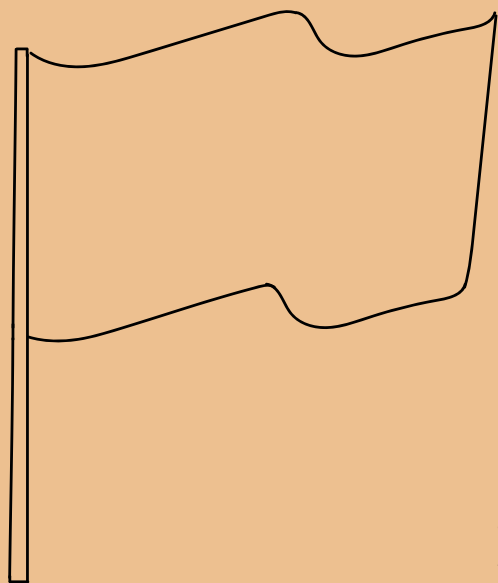
After the story is complete, ask your child/students the following questions. Encourage them to make revisions based on their answers.



- Is there any part of the story you want to explain more?
- Is there any part of the story you want to take out? Why?
- Do you relate to your main character?
- How are you like your main character, and how are you different?
- Draw a picture of something that happened in your story.



## Challenge Levels:



Challenge Levels are for young writers who are looking for a challenge or who want some more writing practice before going on to the next guide. Challenge Levels include short writing prompts that expand upon the story guide's lessons.

**Let's have some fun with your story.**  
**Use these challenges to play around with what you have just written.**

### Challenge Level One

- Write another story that tells about the school day of a different character. Ask yourself these questions as you write: What does this character like to do? What is their favorite class? What are some things they learn about throughout the day?

### Challenge Level Two

- In the sample story, Zach makes a video game. Write a story about something your character makes while at school. Some things they could make include a painting, a robot, a science experiment, a collage, a book, or a sculpture.

